

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of communicating information concerning an attribute of a data source device unit, comprising:
generating a watermark based on said attribute of the data source device unit;
combining the watermark with a data stream from the data source device unit,
thereby generating a data transmission message unit; and
transmitting the data transmission message unit to a destination device unit.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute of the data source device indicates unit corresponds to a capability of the data source device unit.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the attribute of the data source device unit comprises one of a type of voice operated recorder (vocoder), a source device unit revision indicator, and a source device unit identifier.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein generating comprises generating the watermark ~~is generated~~ based on a plurality of attributes of the data source device unit.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the attributes of the data source device unit correspond to indicates capabilities of the data source device unit.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the attributes of the data source device unit comprise at least one of a type of voice operated recorder (vocoder), source device unit revision indicator, and a source device unit identifier.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising compressing the data stream according to a source compression algorithm, wherein the attribute upon which the watermark is generated identifies the source compression algorithm.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- compressing the data stream to generate a compressed data stream;
- detecting a capability of the data source device unit;
- generating a signature based on the detected capability of the source device unit;
- and
- applying the signature as the watermark to the compressed data stream to generate the data transmission message unit.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the detected capability of the data source device unit comprises at least one of a type of voice operated recorder (vocoder), source device unit revision indicator, and a source device unit identifier.
10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the data stream includes multimedia data encoded in a plurality of fields including non-critical fields and critical fields, and wherein said applying the signature comprises masking the non-critical fields of the data stream; applying the signature to the masked fields of the data stream; and outputting a signed data stream having the non-critical fields of the data stream containing the signature and the critical fields of the data stream containing the multimedia data.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data stream includes header information and multimedia content information, and wherein the watermark is contained in the multimedia content information.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the watermark is a digital watermark.
13. (currently amended) A method of determining capabilities of a data source unit, comprising:

receiving a data transmission message unit containing a data stream having a watermark, the watermark containing information concerning an attribute of a data source device unit; and

determining, based on the watermark, said attribute of the data source device unit.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the attribute of the data source device unit corresponds to a capability of the data source device unit.

15 (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the data stream includes header information and multimedia content information, and wherein the watermark is contained in the multimedia content information.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the watermark corresponds to a plurality of attributes of the data source device unit.

17. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the watermark is a digital watermark.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the transmission data message unit is received at a destination device unit, and ~~the method~~ further comprising ~~comprises~~ extracting a signature from the watermark, determining a source device unit attribute from the extracted signature, determining a destination device unit attribute corresponding to the data source device unit attribute, and comparing the source device unit attribute with the destination device unit attribute.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising determining a capability common to both the source and destination device units based on the compared attributes.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising ~~negotiating~~ generating a parameter for use in communicating between the data source device unit and the destination device unit based on the determined common capability.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising recovering from the received transmission data message unit a multimedia data stream, based on the ~~negotiated~~ parameter.

22. (currently amended) A data source apparatus, comprising:
a data stream processor configured to output a data stream;
a signature generator configured to generate a signature containing information concerning at least one attribute of the data source apparatus; and
a combiner configured to receive the data stream and signature, to embed the signature as a watermark within the ~~data~~ data stream, and to output a watermarked data unit.

23. (currently amended) The data source apparatus of claim 22, wherein said at least one attribute of the data source apparatus unit corresponds to at least one capability of the data source apparatus unit.

24. (currently amended) The data source apparatus of claim 23, wherein said at least one attribute of the data source apparatus unit comprises at least one of a type of voice operated recorder (vocoder), source apparatus unit revision indicator, and a source apparatus unit identifier.

25. (currently amended) The data source apparatus method of claim 23, further comprising a compression unit that compressing compresses the data stream according to a source compression algorithm, wherein said at least one attribute identifies the source compression algorithm.

26. (currently amended) The data source apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a transport processor unit configured to add communication protocol information to the watermarked data unit and to output a data transmission message unit.

27. (currently amended) The data source apparatus of claim 22, wherein the combiner unit comprises a circuit for logically combining the signature with the data stream.

28. (currently amended) A data source apparatus suitable for communication with a destination apparatus unit, comprising:

means for generating a data stream;

means for generating a watermark based on a plurality of capabilities of the data source apparatus;

means for combining the watermark with the data stream, thereby generating a data transmission message unit; and

means for transmitting the data transmission message unit to a destination apparatus unit.

29. (currently amended) A destination apparatus, comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive a data transmission message unit having multimedia data containing an embedded watermark, wherein the watermark contains information concerning at least one capability of a ~~source data~~ source apparatus unit outputting the multimedia data;

a watermark detector configured to detect the watermark embedded in the multimedia data; and

a capabilities unit configured to extract ~~source data~~ data source apparatus unit capability information from the watermark and to control operation of the destination apparatus according to the extracted capability information.

30. (currently amended) The destination apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a capabilities negotiation processor configured to negotiate with the ~~source data~~ data source apparatus unit communications parameters based on the capability information extracted from the watermark.

31. (currently amended) The destination apparatus of claim 29, wherein the watermark contains information concerning a plurality of capabilities of the data source ~~unit~~ apparatus.

32. (currently amended) The destination apparatus of claim 29, wherein the multimedia data contained in the data transmission message unit is compressed according